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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

EXTENSION OF THE FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

Note by the Administrator

1. The fourth country programme for the Sultanate of Oman was approved by the Governing Council at its thirty-fourth session (1987) for the programme period 1987 to 1991. The main objectives of the programme were the following: capacity-building, Omanization of government outreach (community participation) and economic diversification. The experience of the fourth cycle has shown positive achievements in social development activities, including upgrading of basic literacy and hygiene, additional income-generating activities and development of women's participation in the rural areas. Many agricultural, industrial and private sector activities were also developed providing the country with a more diversified economic base. Human resources development was the core of the technical cooperation programme and is expected to continue in the future.

2. The provisions of decision 91/29 concerning countries with per capita gross national product (GNP) above $3,000 apply to Oman, which had a per capita GNP of $5,000 in 1988. The indicative planning figure (IPF) for the fifth cycle is being calculated according to the provisions of 91/29. The Council will be informed of this IPF at its thirty-ninth session. A UNDP mission visited Oman in October 1991 to review the conditions for future programming in connection with the Governing Council decision. The mission was informed that the Government's technical cooperation needs were being determined by the various sectoral departments and would serve as a basis for the next country programme. The Government has also requested that a programming mission be fielded to identify the high priority areas of

technical cooperation. In order to complete this exercise and formulate a viable programme, the Government has requested the extension of the current country programme for one year, beginning January 1992. During the extension period, the Government intends to undertake an in-depth internal review of the fourth country programme, within the framework of preparation for the fifth country programme. Thus, no project extensions are foreseen by the Government beyond December 1992. Continuity, however, will be assured for projects already operational and expected to be implemented during the next cycle.

3. It is expected that the fifth country programme for Oman will be submitted to the Governing Council at its special session in February 1993.

4. The Administrator wishes to inform the Governing Council that he has approved the extension of the fourth country programme for Oman for a period of one year, beginning January 1992.